Spring 2023 classes
PAGE 8

Bit of Mayhem
PAGE 6

Student Art
PAGE 13

UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

# Mat-Su Monitor

WINTER 2022 | FREE | VOLUME 46 NUMBER 2

Mat-Su College
2023 HIGH SCHOOL
ART PORTFOLIO COMPETITION

1st Place Award
Two Semester Tuition Scholarship

2nd Place Award
Six Credit Tuition Scholarship

3rd Place Award
Certificate of Achievement

Honorable Mention
Certificate of Achievement

ENTER TO WIN FREE TUITION!!!

Submission Deadline: April 21, 2023 at 11:59pm
Winners Announced: April 26, 2023
Art Show: April 30 - May 30, 2023

PICK UP AN ENTRY FORM FROM YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

FOR RULES AND TO ENTER, SCAN HERE!!

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

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## Halloween Bash

Thank you to all who attended the Halloween Bash hosted by our own MSC Student Government Council with help from MSC's GSA.

It was great fun, between the games and challenges and everyone's fun costumes.

Congratulations to our costume contest winners, and happy Halloween, MSC!

P.S: If your club has an event or fundraiser coming up, please let us at the Monitor know! We're always happy to get the word out about new clubs, activities, and events.

*See* **HALLOWEEN** *page 10*

## Upcoming events:

**December 12- 15:** Therapy dogs on campus. FSM Lobby.

**December 16:** Deadline to apply for fall graduation.

**December 22:** Grades available on UAOnline.

**December 23-January 2:** Campus closed.

**January 11:** New Student Orientation; contact Student Services to register if you are an incoming freshman.

**January 17:** Spring semester begins.

**January 16:** Alaska Civil Rights Day; campus closed, no classes.

**February 3:** Winter Formal. 6 - 10 pm Mat-Su Campus

## Club meeting times:

These club times are accurate as of 2022-11-07. Clubs do not meet during winter break. Club meeting times will likely change in the Spring semester. See club postings on campus for the current meeting times.

**Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team (ADVET):** Every other Friday from 4-5

**Alaska Native Cultures Club:** Tues. & Wed 3-4 FSM 107 and Zoom.

**Gay Straight Alliance:** Tues. 12:30 - 2:30 FSM 200.

**Mat-Su Monitor:** Wed. 2-3 FSM 107

**Math Club:** Thurs. 4:30 - 6 FSM 105

**Nihongo Tadoku Club:** Fri. 4-5 FSM 105 and online. Contact sninoyu@alaska.edu for more details.

**Robotics Club:** Mon. & Wed.11:15-1 JKB 120.

**Student Government:** Wed.12:15-1:15 FSM 107.

## STUDENTS ORGANIZE THREE CONCURRENT CHARITY DRIVES

*By Billy Tourmaline*

The hallways are full of students -- and donation bins.

Almost three years after COVID sent most education online, life has returned to campus. One of the surest signs of this is the resurgence of student clubs. Student clubs -- some new, some reformed -- are having a banner year. As if to prove that point, this fall clubs have organized no less than three concurrent donation drives.

*See* **CHARITY** *page 11*

INDEX

Student Government .. 3
Journey ..... 4
Bit of Mayhem..... 6
Tutor Hours ..... 7
Spring Classes..... 8
Clubs.....11
Student Art..... 13
Puzzles .....14

## Writing of the Winds

*By Elliana Overstreet*

(note: *lyrics will be italicized to discriminate between them and edited text.*)

"My parents' divorce happened right at the end of my freshman year. Fresh into high school, starting to figure myself out, trying to figure life out, trying to finally have a footing somewhere. But sometimes you just get knocked off-course, and it really sucks, and everything you've ever known, everything you believe, is questioned and put to the test." So says fresh-

*See* **CULLISON** *page 15*

## The Comradeship of Strangers

*By D. Hobbs*

It happens to us all. We are in a public place, intent on accomplishing our mission and determined that nothing will break our concentration. Then our focus is suddenly captured by a stranger's random act of friendliness, reminding us that we are not living life on an island, but rather on a vast land bustling with people. Why do we so often think that strangers are "strange"? We all are strangers to

*See* **STRANGERS** *page 15*

## Construction project offering advantages to Palmer

*By D. Hobbs*

If anyone driving along the outskirts of Palmer on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway is looking for a quicker way to get to Bogard Road, they very possibly will be looking forward to the ongoing project concerning Felton Street. The construction is currently put on hold due to supply delays, in addition to the winter weather. However, in 2023 the extension projected to be completed

*See* **CONSTRUCTION** *page 15*

## Welcome Rolled Gold!

**HOURS**
**Mon - Thurs**
**8:30 - 7:00**
**Fridays**
**8:30 - 1:00**

This week, the grill at Mat-Su College was fired up for the first time in three years, giving students, faculty, and staff the option of a hot meal without leaving campus. This big step back to our precovid normalcy was made possible by a pair of sisters with strong community and campus ties.

*See* **CAFE** *page 9*

Mat-Su Monitor
Winter 2022

# Behind the Pages: Backstage at the Mat-Su Monitor

*By Elliana Overstreet*

I remember at the beginning of August, during orientation, being thrilled that my new school had its own newspaper. Not just a newsletter from the principal every month like my old high school, but a real, student-run paper that printed with the Frontiersman!! While I'm still just as excited to be here today, it's surprising to hear how many students have no idea we exist, despite the newspaper stands placed every one hundred feet or so in the hallway. The most common response when I say I'm writing an article for the school paper: "Wait, we have a school newspaper?" Yes, we do! So let me re-introduce you to the Mat-Su Monitor.

Hi. We're five (or six, or seven, depending whether or not one of us brought a friend to one of our Wednesday meetings) college students who actually enjoy writing on purpose. Why? Varying reasons. One of us is a YouTuber (yes– that's her job!) who writes scripts for our YouTube channel here at the Monitor. Two of us are avid poets. Two of us are involved in practically every club that exists here at MSC. Most of us are pretty talkative and always have something to say, whether it's over thirty digits of pi or the Minnesota pronunciation of Halloween (it's Hallowe'en, by the way). In the spirit of getting information out there, I asked around within the Monitor what everyone's favorite part of being on the team was. Here were a few of the responses:

"Certainly working with colleagues, seeing so many people who are passionate about the news and talking about it, building stories. Finding people with similarly aligned interests and are passionate within the subject really lights a fire in your belly."

> "It's some of the most fun I've ever had."

"...The chaos, I guess? I don't know. I have fun here, I'm able to write whatever I want and do anything, so I'm allowed to let some of my chaos out in a very positive way."

"I get to write, because I love writing! Although, I haven't written very much so far… but I also love editing, so I'm glad I get to be the editor. I have done quite a bit of that."

"Honestly, it's better than school… It's a way to procrastinate. I don't have to write essays if I'm here!"

And all of these are reasons why we all joined, although a few of us were just roped into it by our advisors. Audrey and Micah are just as enthusiastic about the Monitor as we all are. Audrey is commonly referred to as "Mom" during meetings (it isn't her favorite nickname, admittedly, but it stuck) for keeping us all on-track, at least for the most part. Micah works in the library, and I've only walked in a few times throughout the semester when he wasn't already talking to one of our Monitor members or another curious student about one of many interesting, obscure topics. Anything from vintage horror movies to an infuriating research paper citation to Ivan from that one club you just joined, he either has information about it or a desktop screen turning to face you with a moderate squeak as he looks it up. We wouldn't be able to fill this paper without his "just look it up" mindset, either. This is sixteen pages– that means almost three and one-third per person– which is doing well for seven college students in a month, especially with midterms right in the middle of all of it!

Truly, though, I think my coworkers do really well. They go through a lot. One left foster care and was adopted earlier this year. One deals with a few mental conditions and is hands-down the most energetic person on our team. One is trying to build her own business on YouTube while working another job and going to college. One is trying to go into either full-time writing or photojournalism. All together, we get a wacky mix of energy and academic burnout, of joy and exhaustion, of blind confusion at the utter chaos of passionate college students. It's some of the most fun I've ever had.

For those of you who want to join the Monitor or submit an article to us or a local paper: do it! Publishing isn't scary. The idea is, but in reality everyone is incredibly encouraging, and those who aren't are just confirming that your story is good (seeing as the controversial stories are the ones that tend to do well). Come join the wacky, wonderful, erratic, energetic, curious crew that is the Mat-Su Monitor.

And if you don't, well… keep reading. Stay informed. Check back monthly for a new edition. We're not done yet; there's a lot more to come.

Elliana and Kaia brain storming during a *Monitor* meeting.

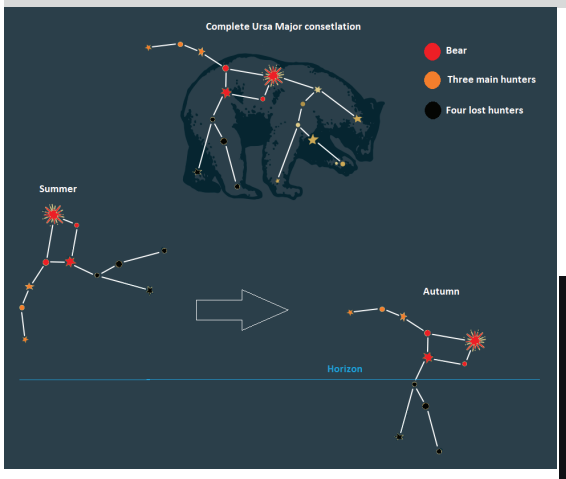
# Ursa Major

*By Rachel Goodall*

December is a great month to look up to the sky and look at the constellations. The Northern Hemisphere has some stars that we can see year around. These constellations we see in the winter sky are the circumpolar constellations.

The Alaska flag has the Big Dipper and the North Star for the Emblem. The Big Dipper is part of a larger constellation called Ursa Major, the great bear. This constellation is seen all year around. The University of Alaska Fairbanks has very interesting booklets online that describe the night sky. Check them out. You will be amazed at how much of the sky is full of design.

https://uaf.edu/museum/education/educators/heliophysics-aurora-outre/activities/




The constellation Ursa Major, the great bear, is a circumpolar constellation visible in the northern hemisphere all year long. The Big Dipper is part of Ursa Major.

https://uaf.edu/museum/education/educators/heliophysics-aurora-outre/activities/pdfs/Constellations-of-Alaska.pdf

https://star-name-registry.com/blog/item/mythology-ursa-major

## MAT-SU MONITOR STAFF

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The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor*'s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the *Monitor* can be found at *https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml.*

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the *Monitor* article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

## Submissions policy

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to uaa_msc@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

# Meet Your Student Government

**Joe Pavia-Jones**

**President**

Joe was elected Vice President in Fall of 2021 and moved up to President Spring of 2022. He was re-elected in the Spring to continue as your Student Government President for 2022-2023 School year.

Joe graduated Colony High in 2020 and rode out the pandemic at home in Palmer. He has been accepted to the Civil Engineering Program at UAA. He will continue to take as many GER classes at Mat-Su as possible to save on commuting or dorm expenses.

Joe is an eager work horse. He has earned his Eagle in Scouting and still continues in the Order of The Arrow (Scouting Honors). He has served as a Camp Counselor and Lodge Chief. He has attended several Scouting Leadership Conferences.

Joe also likes to travel. He has marched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2017 with the Colony High Marching Band as well as the 2019 D-Day Ceremonies in France. He has attended Scouting World Jamboree. Joe also loves snorkeling

and has done so in Bermuda, Bahama, and Haiti.

**Jake Colberg**

**Vice President**

Hello students and staff, my name is Jake Colberg. I am the current Vice President of the UAA Mat-Su Student Government. I was elected VP the fall semester of 2022. I am a Mat-Su Middle College Student and I have maintained at least 15 credits per semester for the last year and a half here. I enjoy spending my time working in the robotics club and racing on the Colony High Nordic Ski team. I have many hobbies outside of my school life, and when I'm not studying I enjoy spending my time snowboarding, hiking, and flying as I am a student pilot who can fly solo. I am pleased to be a part of the Student Government and excited to help organize many events throughout the next year. Feel free to pop

into our student government office room in JKB114 and say hello.

**Sophia Martin**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Sophia Martin is the secretary and the treasurer of the Mat-Su College Student Government. She is 17 years old and the oldest of four siblings. Her family moved from Prince of Wales Island to Palmer three years ago, where she has since been enrolled at the Mat-Su College. Sophia has been playing music and writing songs since she was young and wants to pursue music into adulthood, and she is currently working towards graduating high school with an Associates of Arts Degree. She recently received the UA Scholar Award and is now looking into becoming a technical writer, as she enjoys the art of putting words together. When she is not studying, she is working on writing or recording songs in hopes that she will one day record an album.

# Hey! It's us, your Student Government Senators!

*By Kaia Richardson*

ELLIANA OVERSTREET:
Hi! I'm in my first year at MSC through MSMCS. I was one of two first Senators to join this year and am now the head of our Planning Committee. I love working with other people to make our environment a better place, so I'm super excited to be planning events and working with the other Senators to give the student body a campus they'll genuinely want to be on (even outside of classes)!

EMILY BEILER:
As the newest senator of the Student Government, I'm loving the connections I have with fellow members. It's awesome to have friends on campus and someone to hang out with during lunch break! I'm currently seeking to earn an Associate of Arts degree here at Mat-Su. I'm also an editor for the Mat-Su Monitor, which is another great opportunity to work with some of the fantastic people at the college.

AMBER BRATLIE:
Amber Bratlie was the second to last senator to join the Student Government Body. She is 17 years old and in her freshman year at Mat-Su Middle College. Since the time Amber has become a senator, she has been a part of the planning committee and has had a role in the making of the Information and Suggestion Box.

KAIA RICHARDSON:
I was born at a very young age. I grew until I was 19. As I begin to end my first semester in college, I am honored to be a senator for the Student Government Council and a representative for each of the clubs I am part of, including the math club and a writer in the Mat-Su Monitor. I'm the vice-chairman of the planning committee and I look forward with excitement to this coming spring semester and hope to influence and participate in upcoming events!

The senators are here to represent you. Please feel free to speak to or ask any member of the Student Government Council questions so we know what we can do for you. Stop by the Student Government Office in JKB Rm 114, or show up for our meetings. Our weekly meetings are on Wednesdays at 12:15-1:15 in FSM 107. All are welcome. You can also place any information, suggestions, or preferences that the student government can help with in the Information and Suggestion Box outside of our office. Our role in the office is to hear you and make the campus more enjoyable for everybody and we are proud to be allowed to represent you.

Get involved with your
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Wednesdays
12:15 pm to 1:15 pm FSM 107
for more information email
uaa_mscstudentgov@alaska.edu
or call (907) 745-9759

## MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Student Government Council (SGC) of the Associated Students of Matanuska-Susitna College, University of Alaska Anchorage, is a student-run and administered body which provides a voice for student wants and needs and is aimed at providing a friendly and healthy environment for any and all students campus-wide.

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Be a Senator and represent the student body. Becoming a Student Government Officer is an excellent way to influence campus life -- and it looks great on a resume. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

- Board of Elections
- Rules Committee
- Planning Committee

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax. Club Representatives act as the liaison between their clubs and Student Government. They keep the Council informed about club activities, and have a vote on matters brought before the Council.

- Alaska Native Culture Club
- Arctic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Math Club
- Mat-Su Monitor
- Nihongo Tadoku Club
- Robotics Club
- Paramedic Association

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, start one of your own! Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.

Welcome to your Mat -Su College educational journey. There are many rewarding experiences along the path to your ultimate goal, but there will also be challenges along the way. The Journey Program focuses on health and wellness activities to build up the Mat-Su College community and to help you rise to challenges, cope with stress, and stay healthy as you make your way through this exciting, but often hectic, time in your life.

## Counseling Services

Mat-Su College students may receive up to 3 free counseling appointments with an licensed behavioral health clinician. To make an appointment, call Mat-Su Health Services at 907-376-2411 and identify yourself as a Mat-Su College student. You may meet with the clinician on campus or at Mat-Su Health Services.

Earn a stamp each time you...

- Participate in a Journey event
- Attend a FAFSA or Scholarship Workshop
- Use the math or writing tutoring services
- Join a library information session
- Meet with a career counselor in Student Services
- Meet with your advisor to plan for next semester
- Attend a Student Government meeting

*Journey* events focus on the A, B, C's of wellness:

- **Awareness** of good mental health for yourself and others.
- **Balance** between school, work, and self-care.
- **Connection** to campus, community, friends, and family.

And remember, you don't have to go it alone. Mat-Su College students may receive **FREE** counseling with and experienced behavioral health counselor. To make an appointment, call Mat-Su Health Services and identify yourself as a Mat-Su College student. Their number is 907-376-2411.

Collect 5 stamps in your passport and bring it to Student Services to enter a drawing held at the end of September, October, and November.

Be sure to ask about your stamp at each Journey event, stamps will not be given retroactively for in person events. Events held over Zoom will have a 7 day grace period for getting a stamp. Zoom event stamps are available at Student Services.

Therapy Dogs Finals Week

Date: December 12-15, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: FSM Lobby

Description: Relax and de-stress with a little animal therapy during finals week.

*Welcome* to your Mat-Su College educational journey. There are many rewarding experiences along the path to your ultimate goal, but there will also be challenges along the way.

The Journey Program focuses on health and wellness activities to build up the Mat-Su College community and to help you rise to challenges, cope with stress, and stay healthy as you make your way through this exciting, but often hectic, time in your life.

By joining others at Journey events this semester, you can follow Sophia, our Arctic Dragon mascot, on a path toward health and well-being.

## 10 Drug Prevention Tips for Youth w/ Dangers of Fake Pills & Fentanyl (DEA)

*As a teen saying no to drugs is never easy. Kellsie's Lesson asks students to create a 'personal refusal statement.' In addition, here are some tips for teens to use to stay drug free along with being safe, healthy and thriving.*

Choose like-minded friends. This can be a protective measure to avoid peer pressure to use drugs by hanging out with friends who also disagree with using drugs.

1. Make your parents the 'bad guys!' Tell peers that your parents will ground you, take away your phone, other devices and/or not allow for friends to visit.
2. Use sports, community groups and/or other organizations that would 'kick you off the team' for using drugs. And, you want to stay healthy because you know drugs can affect your body and mind, especially driving!
3. Suggest your better plans and different ideas. If you know drugs are going to be present at a party or gathering, initiate to do something different! (i.e. Xbox, video games, movie, card games, and/or outside activities)
4. Bring your own drink to the party if you go. Carry bottled water, soda, or iced tea. With a drink in your hand, less pressure if already drinking something. But, don't take any pills. (counterfeit Percocet, Xanax, Oxy or Adderall are contaminated with fentanyl) Fake pills can be deadly!
5. Street drugs can be fatal, everything is contaminated with fentanyl. That includes heroin, cocaine, meth and counterfeit pills which are causing fatal overdoses and poisonings. And, your life is too important!
6. Have an escape plan if you find yourself in a dangerous situation. You can use a special coded message so that your parents, trusted adult/s and a friend/s knows you want out. Your safety comes first.
7. Be that friend that supports others to stay drug free.
8. The only safe drugs come from a doctor or licensed pharmacist.
9. These drug prevention tips can be used to avoid alcohol/drug use/misuse.
10. Parents, teachers, nurses, school boards, coaches and youth leaders & advocates are encouraged to share these tips with youth.

Reference source: Mental Health & Recovery Board for Healthy Minds & DEA

MSMCS

# MAT-SU MIDDLE COLLEGE
## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL WITH UP TO 60 CREDITS!*

*Priority application period: January 4TH - March 5TH*

*Family Information Night Webinar posted at https://www.matsuk12.us/domain/6968*
*Go to matsuk12.us/msm for more information!*

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

or 907.761.3495
907.761.3498

MSM@matsuk12.us

www.matsuk12.us/msm

# I Like Risks

(2018)

I don't know why
But I like to take risks.
I like to watch my own blood
Trickle down my wrists.
I like to wait a few minutes
After I'm called.
I like the moments just before
The Megadrop falls
I like to hint to people that
Something is wrong
But stop before they start to think
Something's going on
I like to brood dark thoughts
When I'm by myself
Then yank them down and lock them up
And store them on a shelf.
I like to take risks
And I think I know why-
Because sometimes I think
That I shouldn't be alive.

-Jesha

# Bringing Hope to Kids

*By Damaris Hobbs*

In November there was a great opportunity for individuals to help underprivileged kids around the world, and it came in the form of a shoebox. Operation Christmas Child is a Christian outreach started by Samaritan's Purse that encourages people to give from the heart. The gifts consist of filling a container, either a cardboard box provided by the ministry or a plastic shoebox-sized container, with items such as school supplies, hygiene products, toys, games, and clothing. The boxes were collected and are on their way to processing centers across the United States, where they will then be packed into huge crates for their journey across the world. This is a wonderful ministry and it encourages everyone to consider how much they have to be thankful for, and to share their abundance. Check out Samaritan's Purse at samaritanspurse.org to find out how to be a part of the giving in years to come.

www.samaritanspurse.org

# 15 Minutes Can Save a Life

*By Terry Airedale*

This summer, I *might've* saved a life. That's not to brag. Notice the might've. It's all very potential. And it's not like I volunteered to do something heroic, like part with a precious kidney or get irradiated for science. Rather, I spent 15 minutes getting myself on the national bone marrow donor registry.

It began in May. The Anchorage Daily News ran a story about Tiberius Newbill, a six year old with a rare form of leukemia. His recovery depended on finding a bone marrow donor. Because compatible donors are rare, success depends on testing as many people as possible. To that end, his parents organized a donor registration event. I made a mental note to go. Naturally, I forgot.

Later, guilty, I remembered something from the article: people could sign up online for an at-home registration kit. So, a couple of minutes later, my kit was on the way. Once I had it in hand, all I had to do was swab my cheek and send the swab back. It was all very simple. The process altogether took 15 minutes and cost nothing.

*See* SAVE A LIFE *page 15*

SAVE THE DATE!
Local Scholarship Information,
FAFSA Help and
College Information
All in one place!!
FUND YOUR FUTURE
AT MAT-SU COLLEGE'S
SPRING FINANCIAL AID FAIR
FEBRUARY 4TH, 2023
10 AM - 3 PM @ MSC
WATCH THIS PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION TO BE ANNOUNCED!!
Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage
COLLEGE
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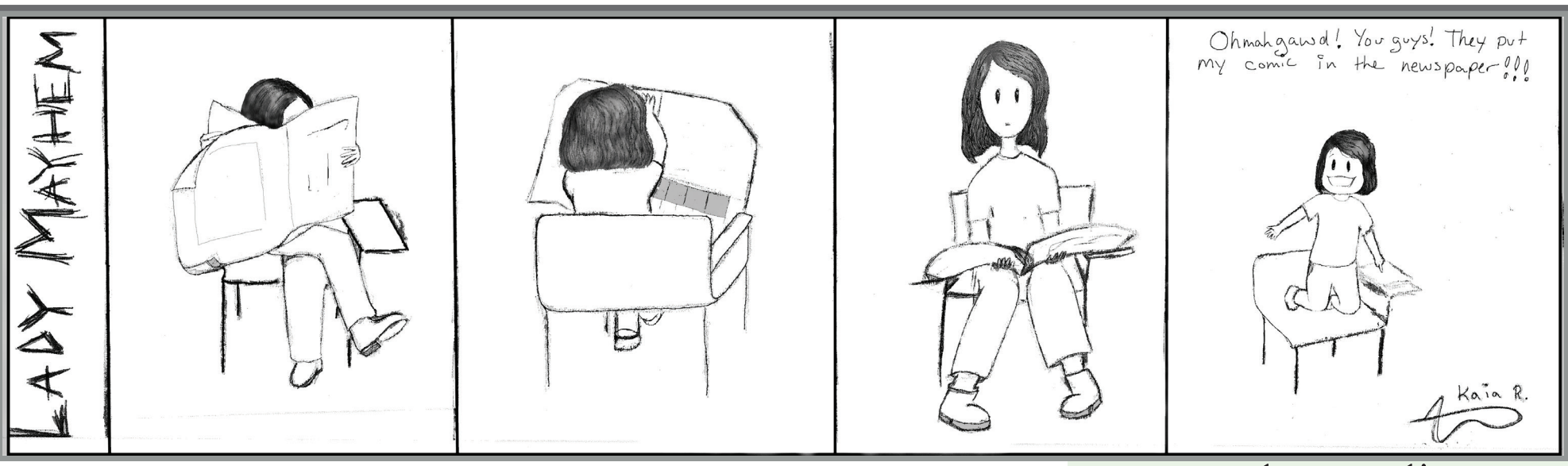
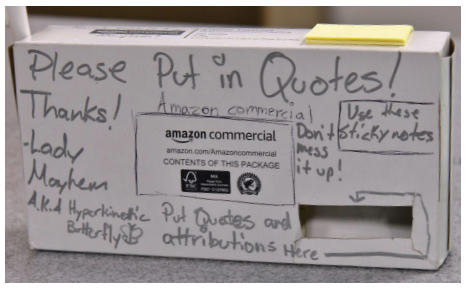



# A Bit of Mayhem:

# A Box of Quotes




*By: Lady Mayhem and The Obsidian Blade of the Jaguar Warrior*

Lady Mayhem asked students and employees to submit quotes to her Box of Mayhem. Some people submitted famous quotes, others submitted things they were thinking or that they overheard. Anything without an attribution was submitted anonymously.

"Here's an idea--Hold on. Let me finish my text." - Kaia

"Life is like a game of chess. I don't know how to play chess" - D. Hobbs

"Oh ma ga! Wow"

"If we cannot live so as we can be happy, let us at least live so as we deserve it" - Immanuel Fichte

"A lot of small children are psychopaths." - Allison K.

"I was a small child once" - B. N.

"In light there is darkness. In darkness there is light."

"If they know what you're doing, you're not doing it right"

If you need one yard, I'll get you three. If you need five yards, I'll get you three." - Leroy Hoard

"People are People" - Depeche Mode

"I was a People once" -B. N.

"I miss Micah" - Aiden

"When a man tells you he got rich through hard work, ask him whose." - Don Marquis

"Don't suck" - Fisher

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and binds up all their wounds" Psalms 34:18

"Snickers is better than twix"

"I was a twix once" - B. N.

"Add bro to anything to automatically make it sound cooler"

I wish I was funny '-'

"Always quit when things get hard"

"I'm being cyberbullied offline. In the 21st century, it's cyber" - Omni-no

"Life can be a tropical island. One you can never leave because you're stranded and planes don't fly over your area" - Ted L.

"I was an island once" - B. N.

"... for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave, where you are going." - Ecclesiastes 9:10

"Sometimes you're the ball, sometimes you're the flipper." - Don Mahan

"The best revenge is to not be like that." - Marcus Aurelius

"Naptime... delicious!" - Rumscuttle.

"And then there were pop-tarts."

"You need to be excellent to each other." - Bill and Ted

"You know what's weird? Anything that's not normal."

"The person who writes for fools is always sure of a large audience." - Schopenhauer

"Oh, where is my hairbrush?" - Larry the Cucumber

"Always base your self-esteem on what others think of you." - Omni-no

"Admit nothing - deny everything - demand proof!"

"Hey brain, how do you spell Wednesday? Brain: By saying Wednes-day to yourself while you're writing."

Paraphrasing: "Gaslight on Halloween!" - Omni-no

"Windows are like mirrors, sometimes they're reflective, sometimes they're not." - Aiden

"I was a mirror once" - B. N.

"Tequila!"

"In my day, we just had sticks and rocks to play with."

"I was a rock once" - B. N.

"This long disease, my life." - Alexander Pope

"I was very uncomfortable today."

"We have to put a stop to this sci-fi hooliganism." - Sam

"When I grow up I want to be Peter Pan so I don't grow up. But if I'm Peter Pan, I can't ever grow up so I can't grow up to be Peter Pan so I won't grow up to be Peter Pan so I can be Peter Pan." - Hyper-Kinetic Butterfly

"I was Peter Pan once" - B. N.

"HAVE A NICE DAAY!" - Lady Mayhem

"If you ever think you're weird, think about that one lady who came into the library at 6:11 pm on Tuesday and was awkward" - Omni-No

"You can make anything a innuendo by adding 'If ya know what I mean *wink, wink. Nudge, nudge*' to the end of what you said" - Hyper-Kinetic Butterfly

"Gotta go Fast!!!" - Sonic the Hedgehog

"Why not?" - Kaia

"Anybody can be yours if you kidnap it hard enough" - Rumscuttle

"If it ain't broke, fix it til it is" - Every Maintenance Technician round the World

"I'm sure wherever my Dad is, he's looking down on us. He's not dead, just very condescending." —Jack Whitehall

"2019 was a terrible year" - Sophia Martin

"Guys, please stop having a conversation on my phone..." Emily B.

# understanding

shadows in the library,
shields from the sun bleach
learning all the things
that were always kept out of reach
trying to understand
why you stayed inside their hands
when you could've taken leaps
(broken bones, bruising hands)
fireflies never need an extinguisher;
they keep the lights on
only when they're really in need
but never sit in the dark.
musicians don't like the quiet
they make noise with their hearts
to keep their hearts from going silent.
writers get slivers and paper cuts
in attempt to let out their souls,
lower the pressure;
lovers, in every way,
are the most delicate of peoples
and the strongest together.
when sun-bleach and bruises
silence on the scene
meets symphonies and paper cuts,
he knows what she means

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Phone?
Jacket?
Headphones?
Flash drive?
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your item might have been found

# GET HIRED ON

Free for Mat-Su College students and alumni!

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2 Start building your profile today!

3 Set up your preferences for job types and locations.

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

For more information contact:
907.745.9746

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ABORTION PILL REVERSAL
FATHERHOOD AND PARENT MENTORS
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS & ESSENTIAL NEEDS

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INFO@HEARTREACHALASKA.COM

HEARTREACH CENTER
865 SOUTH SEWARD- MERIDIAN PKWY
WASILLA AK 99654

*make an appointment today!*

# Mat-Su STEM & Creative Arts Funds Survey

This survey is part of a feasibility study for the Writing 212 Course at the Mat-Su College. To assist with funding high school and college student-led academic clubs and projects, the following nonprofit organizations are being considered for creation:

- The Mat-Su Borough STEM Fund

- The Mat-Su Borough Creative Arts Fund

Funding for such an organization would ideally be found solely through corporate sponsors. However, contributions to charitable organizations are write-offs on taxable income. This makes donating to charity beneficial to taxpayers, and could also provide funding for the previously mentioned organizations.

Please complete the following survey to help determine public interest in the potential utilization and effectiveness of the previously mentioned organizations.

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

# HEALTHCARE WORKERS ARE IN DEMAND!

**Many jobs require training but not a degree.**
**Mat-Su Health Foundation vocational scholarships can help!**

MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION

**Apply today at healthymatsu.org**

# Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center

OLB 121 — 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/

**WRITING TUTORS**

Azlynn Brandenburg
Mon. & Tues. 11:00 - 4:00
Wednesday 2:30 - 7:30
Thurs. & Fri. 11:00- 4:00

Dr. Vivian Wagner
Monday 2:30 - 7:30
Wednesday 11:00- 4:00

**MATH TUTORS**

Paul LaFrance
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 11:00 - 4:00
Tues. & Wed. 2:30 - 7:30

Gerrit Verbeek
Tuesday: 12:00 - 4:00

**Tutors available in JKB 107 to December 16. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.**

**Online tutoring options**

- **tutor.com/Live Home Work Help**: the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help with many subjects. Visit http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework
- **Khan Academy**: Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. https://www.khanacademy.org/
- **Purdue OWL:** Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and guides to APA and MLA styles. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/

# Microsoft Office, for Free

***By Art Corvelay***

As a student affiliated with a UAA campus, you have free access to Microsoft's Office 365 website.

Office 365 offers browser-based versions of some the popular Office programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These lack a few features found in their desktop counterparts, but make up for that by saving your files to "the cloud" and by allowing multiple users to simultaneously edit the same document.

Better still, Office 365 users have the option to install the full 2016 versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Simply sign into Office 365 and click the "Install Now" button.

You can access Office 365 by visiting https://portal.office.com and signing in with your UA username followed by @alaska.edu.

Students who want a free, no-strings-attached office suite that will be available long past their graduation should look at LibreOffice (https://www.libreoffice.org/).

# 08 SPRING 2023 CLASSES



**ACCOUNTING**
- Payroll Acct
- Principles Financial Acct
- Principles of Managerial Acct
- Workpaper Prep & Present

**AGRICULTURE**
- **Organic Gardening**

**ANTHROPOLOGY**
- *Intro to Anthropology
- *Alaska Native Cultures

**ART**
- *Art Appreciation
- *History of Western Art I
- Beginning Drawing
- Beginning Painting
- Intermediate Painting
- Introduction to Art Education
- Two-Dimensional Design

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**
- *Business Foundations
- Business Law I
- Business Law II
- Entrepren & Small Bus Mgmt
- Fundamentals of Supervision
- Marketing Practices
- Personal Finance

**BIOLOGY**
- *Human Anatomy & Phys I & II
- *Introductory Biology & Lab
- *Principles & Methods Biology
- Intro Micro for Health Science

**CHEMISTRY**
- *General Chemistry I & Lab
- *General Chemistry II & Lab
- *Intro to Organic/Biochemistry
- Chem Skills & Problem Solv

**COMMUNICATION**
- *Fund Oral Communication
- *Public Speaking

**COMPUTER & ELETRONIC TECHNOLOGY**
- CCNA 2
- Comp User Support & Help Desk
- Customer Service Fundament
- Individual Technical Project
- Industry Workplace Experience
- Intro to Information Security
- Local Area Networks
- PC Operating Systems
- PC Technician Fundamentals
- Storage and Virtualization

**ECONOMICS**
- *Principles of Macroeconomics
- *Principles of Microeconomics

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**
- Emergency Medical Tech I

**ENGLISH**
- Introduction to Creative Writing

**ENVIROMENTAL SCIENCES**
- **Enviromental Science & Lab**

**GEOGRAPHY**
- *Intro to Global Geography
- *Physical Geography

**GEOLOGY**
- *Physical Geology

**HEALTH CARE ASSISTING**
- Certified Nurse Aide

**HISTORY**
- *East Asian Civilization I
- *History of United States
- *Western Civilization I
- *Western Civilization II

**HUMAN SERVICES**
- Conflict & Collaboration
- History of Systems of Change
- Human Services Practicum I
- Teach Social Skills Youth

**INFO SYS & DECISION SCIENCES**
- Computer Concepts in Business

**JUSTICE**
- *Intro to Criminal Justice

**LANGUAGES**
- *Elementary ASL II
- *Elementary Japanese II
- *Elementary Spanish I
- *Elementary Spanish II

**LOGISTICS**
- Logistics, Info Sys & Cust Service

**MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS**
- *Calculus I
- *Calculus II
- *Elementary Statistics
- Intermediate Algebra
- Ordinary Differential Equations

**MEDICAL ASSISTING**
- Medical Terminology
- Essentials of Human Disease
- Your Health & Social Services Career

**MUSIC**
- *Music Appreciation

**PHILOSOPHY**
- *Introduction to Philosophy
- *Early Modern Philosophy
- *Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

**PHYSICS**
- *College Physics I & Lab
- *College Physics II & Lab
- *General Physics II & Lab

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**
- *Intro to American Government
- *Intro to Political Science

**PSYCHOLOGY**
- *Introduction to Psychology
- *Lifespan Development

**QUANTITATIVE SKILLS**
- *College Algebra for Calculus
- *Trigonometry
- Elementary Algebra
- *Art of Mathematics

**REFRIGERATION & HEATING**
- HVAC/R Control Systems
- HVAC/R Distribution System
- HVAC/R Troubleshooting
- Refrig & AC II

**SOCIOLOGY**
- *Introduction to Sociology

**THEATER**
- *Theatre Appreciation

**UNIVERSITY STUDIES**
- Strategies for College Success

**VETERINARY ASSISTING**
- Handling & Behavior: Lg Animals
- Intro to Veterinary Profession
- Introduction to Large Animals
- Vet Anatomy & Physiology
- Veterinary Assistant Practicum
- Veterinary Office Procedures

**WRITING**
- *Arguing Across Contexts
- *Writing & the Professions
- *Writing & the Sciences
- *Writing Across Contexts
- Accelerated Learning Program
- Intro to College Writing
- Writing & Reading Strategies

*This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click "Course schedules" for the most current schedule.*

**Indicates class meets GER requirements*

*Semester runs January 17 - May 6*

# FINANCIAL AID UPDATE

-The UA Scholars deadline to apply for admissions is by May 1st of your senior year in high school to the UA campus of your choice. Apply for admissions at **tinyurl.com/2p946nys**.

-The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2023. Complete the FAFSA at **tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry**.

-On October 1st, 2022, the 2023/2024 FAFSA opened. Be sure to complete the application as early as possible to ensure you receive the maximum amount of awards available to you! Complete the FAFSA at **tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry**.

-On October 1st, 2022, the University Foundation Scholarship Application opened. The deadline for the scholarship application is February 15th, 2023. Apply at **tinyurl.com/2p8edhd9**.

# Financial Aid Workshops

Have questions about financial aid? Join us for a complete walk-through of the entire financial aid process! The workshop will cover many topics, including but not limited to:

- The FAFSA application,
- Scholarships,
- Student loans,
- FAFSA Myths and
- Troubleshooting financial aid problems.

The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation with Financial Aid Advisor Darla Budde. Students will be able to ask questions after the presentation. Please visit **tinyurl.com/ybmw2ckr** for more information.

# When you need a hand...

*By Joe Squirrel*

As the nights get longer and colder, know that you're not alone. The college has people to help you get home safely.

Since spring semester, Mat-Su College has had a University Police Department (UPD) officer on campus. Officers are here for more than physical safety. In addition to walking you to your car, they can help jump your battery or unlock your doors. To get a hold of an officer, contact UPD dispatch at 907-786-1120.

If a UPD officer isn't on campus, Physical Plant (i.e., maintenance) staff can help. They, too, can walk you to your car, jump your battery, or unlock your doors. They will even walk you out to your car if you have any reason for concern. You can reach Physical Plant by calling 907-745-9789.

Finally, you can always call Student Services between 9 AM and 5 PM for help. They may have to transfer you to another department, but they will always make sure somebody's solving your issue.

# Winter Driving Reminder

With snow returning to campus, it is a good time to remind everyone to give yourself extra time for your campus commute. Classes won't wait for you to arrive.

While driving on campus, please follow all posted signage and be sure to park in areas that have already been plowed. Also, if parking along a sidewalk, be sure not to have any part of your vehicle hanging over the sidewalk so crews can clear the snow.

# YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

If you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of being homeless, we can help!

We serve clients age 14-25 from 8am to 5:30pm Monday-Friday and 10am to 3:30pm Saturday. We provide all of the following services:

Food
Clothing
Hot Showers
Laundry
Stable Housing
Treatment Referrals
Education Fulfillment
Job Training
Opioid Overdose Kits

Call Us:
Main Office: (907)373-4357
24 Hour Outreach: (907)354-4357
Visit Us:
300 N. Willow St.
Wasilla, AK

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LOVED AND THRIVING

Nine Star Education & Employment Services
Developing Alaska's Workforce

MY HOUSE
PODCAST NETWORK

STEAM DRIVEN
BOUTIQUE

Gathering Grounds
CAFE

MY House
You are always welcome here!

Melissa Schachle and Katie Richardson owners and operators of Rolled Gold posing in the campus kitchen.

**Cafe** *continued from page 1*

Melissa Schachle and Katie Richardson have named their on-campus venture Rolled Gold, after Melissa's former food truck specializing in unique egg rolls including buffalo chicken, pulled pork, and even mac and cheese. Those creations are sure to find their way on the menu in the weeks to come. Other menu items will include quick and fresh choices for breakfast and lunch like burgers, fries, quesadillas, and more. The sisters are also open to hearing from students about what they want to eat.

Melissa has worked at Wasilla's Grape Tap for the last 13 years and has a culinary arts degree from UAA. Sister Katie got her degree at MSC. Katie says "This opportunity gives Melissa the chance to share her passion for food with others." She continues, "Rolled Gold is thankful for this opportunity to serve delicious food to feed hungry minds."

Excitement for Rolled Gold extends beyond the kitchen. Maggie Boman, Director of Administrative Services says "I'm looking forward to a variety of good food at reasonable prices for our students. It is exciting to have a vendor back on campus."

Student Gov. president Joe Pavia-Jones welcomes the sense of community that an on-campus restaurant provides. He says "Lunchtime is when people get together, they get to talk, they relax, take a break from their typical school day, and having a place to go and join with friends is really important to our ability to study and get good grades."

Eventually Rolled Gold hopes also to offer ready-to-go take-home meals that will be perfect for a quick dinner after a busy day on campus. To stay up-to-date on hours and choices at Rolled Gold, follow its new Facebook page.

Mat-Su Monitor
Winter 2022

Halloween contest winners!

Students enjoyed a variety of games, competitions and opportunities to show off their mad party skills.

Attend club and Student Government meetings to get involved in more fun student activities. Club information on page 11.

# POETRY *By Troy Stowell*

**Can't Cook**
Don't look
This rice is badly done
I can't cook
Baked a bad bun
Should have checked recipe in book

**Goblin irl**
I smoke crack
make bright fires
talk mad smack
eat the rubber of car tires

**Life of some carpenter**
I go to the fair
Plenty of apples to eat
I carve a chair
It looks pretty neat
Plenty more apples to share

**Slip and Slide**
The people recoil
As I craft my masterpiece
Covering the hall with oil
Naked and covered in grease
Today the journey begins
As I gain speed
Gliding on my folds of skins
Feeling truly freed

**I crashed my car**
Slammed car into tree
front all smashed
buddy flew free
pretty bad crash

**Eat sand**
I scoop the sand
Might get sick maybe
Eat with hand
Stupid baby

Members of the Gay Straight Alliance Club gather to build donation boxes for the MyHouse organization which supports homeless young people in the Mat-Su Valley. The boxes can be found throughout the around the campus.

For more information contact GSA Advisor:
K. Joey Pavia-Jones (kpavia@alaska.edu)

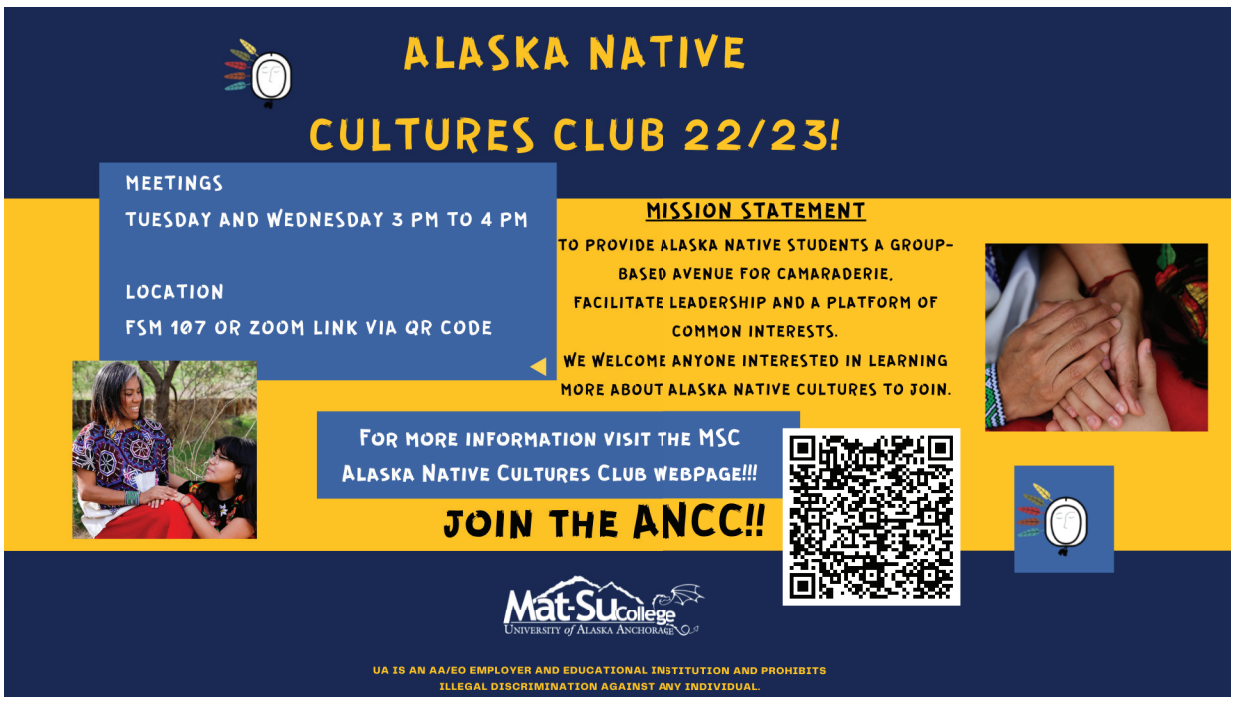
MyHouse
You're Welcome Here

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Wednesdays
2:00-3:00
FSM 107

Looking For
- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

***Now taking submissions: Next deadline for entries: January 27.***


ALASKA NATIVE
CULTURES CLUB 22/23!
MEETINGS
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY 3 PM TO 4 PM
LOCATION
FSM 107 OR ZOOM LINK VIA QR CODE
MISSION STATEMENT
TO PROVIDE ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS A GROUP-BASED AVENUE FOR CAMARADERIE, FACILITATE LEADERSHIP AND A PLATFORM OF COMMON INTERESTS.
WE WELCOME ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES TO JOIN.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE MSC ALASKA NATIVE CULTURES CLUB WEBPAGE!!!
JOIN THE ANCC!!
Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage
UA IS AN AA/EO EMPLOYER AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND PROHIBITS ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL.

## ADVET Club

The Artic Dragon Veterinary Exploration Team is a club focused on exploring the many areas of the veterinary field, working to familiarize its members with what they could expect or what careers exist within. Not only is the club open to members of the Veterinary Assistant Certification program, but also to people outside of that program, whether it be other students or people in the community who are curious about the club's activities. We hold bi-weekly meetings with dates to be announced every month to shift around with the majority of schedules. We hope to see you at one of our meetings! If you have any questions, you can contact Doctor Montalbano at 907-745-9771 or email her at jemontalbano@alaska.edu.

## 日本語多読クラブ

## Nihongo Tadoku Club

### Japanese Extensive Reading

There are many interpretations of themes and contents of books. All of them are correct. This book club will cultivate your imagination, inspire you to create your own world, and help you find yourself through books. If a book that you are reading now is not fun, then find books that make you enjoy reading. The book can be any such as manga, pictorial books, cook books, story books etc. Now, let's go on a journey to find the books you like!

**FRIDAYS 4-5 FSM 105**

Math Club MSC

Math Club

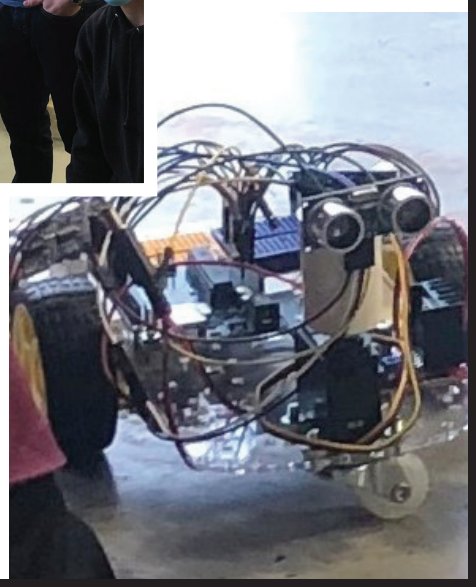
To provide students with additional mathematical resources and to promote the study of mathematics.
MEETINGS:

Thursdays 4:30 FSM 205

## Robotics Club

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays

10 AM to 12 PM JKB 120.



**Charity** *continued from page 1*

First off the block, the Arctic Dragons Veterinary Exploration Team (ADVET) club organized a drive to collect food for the local animal shelter. This drive was active throughout October and into November. Club advisor Judy Montalbano informs the Monitor that the club collected over 500 dollars' worth of food for sheltered animals.

Just a couple of days later, the ever-active Mat-Su Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club kicked off the second drive. This effort collects socks and underwear for MyHouse, a local nonprofit organization that works with local youths who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless so that they can permanently overcome homelessness. (For more information visit https://myhouse.org). Students, employees, and community members are asked to donate to one of the many donation drop-off points on campus. This drive continues until finals week.

Finally, Math Club organized a food drive. Asking for donations of Thanksgiving staples, the drive concluded on November 17. The Math Club Thanksgiving food drive is a tradition that dates back to the days when the club was helmed by Professor P.T. Chang, a 2010 winner of a U.S. Professor of the Year award.

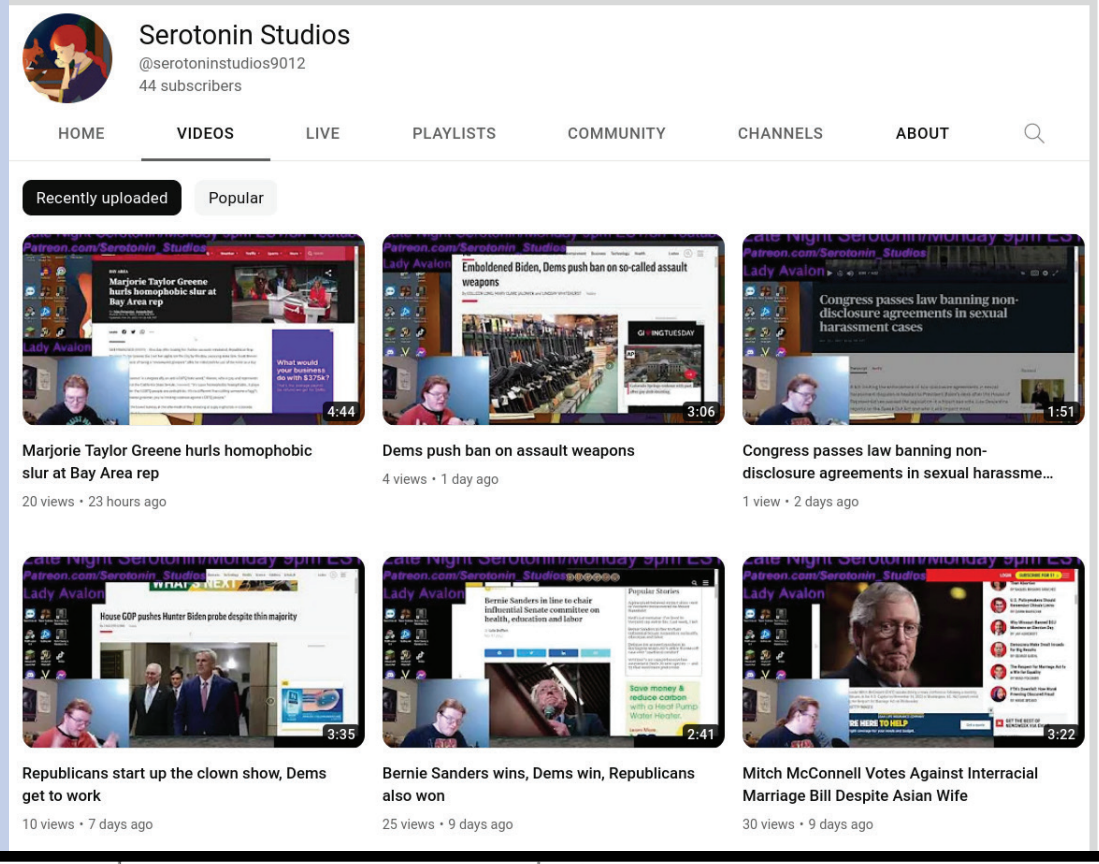
Mat-Su Monitor
Winter 2022

# Serotonin Studios

*By Brook Wright*

Greetings mortals, I'm Brook, also known as Lady Avalon on my youtube channel Serotonin Studios. I make five videos a week talking about news and politics from the perspective of a transgender, lesbian, socialist, polyamorous, disabled atheist...who is also a ginger. I also host a weekly show every Monday at 9pm EST called "Late Night Serotonin" where I bring on a number of guests to talk about a variety of topics in more depth than Tiktok, our main discipline, will allow. We also do episodes centered on a specific topic, like our episode on Mental Health. You can find us under the name Seroton Studios on Youtube, Tiktok and Patreon. Check us out!

Carol Shay visits the campus with therapy dogs, Stannette and Love Bug to help ease student tension during mid-terms.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4 views • 1 day ago
Congress passes law banning non-disclosure agreements in sexual harassme...
1 view • 2 days ago
Republicans start up the clown show, Dems get to work
10 views • 7 days ago
Bernie Sanders wins, Dems win, Republicans also won
25 views • 9 days ago
Mitch McConnell Votes Against Interracial Marriage Bill Despite Asian Wife
30 views • 9 days ago

# Master Copy aka Master Study

A master copy or master study is considered an essential practice and is a very common tool in Art. MatSu College's Beginning Drawing and Beginning Painting classes include student research of the work of a master artist from history, and then students emulate the work.

Students may change the original title of the work, but they must give credit to the master artist.Typically, we say, "after" and then insert the name of the artist.

As an undergrad, my drawing master copies included works by Ingres and David, but I also emulated a 17th Century floral by Bosschaert and Ginevra de Benci by Leonardo (his first portrait) in two of my painting classes. Victor Muniz who is an international art star creates "memory renderings" which is his term for master copies. One example is his "Guernica" fashioned from jigsaw puzzle pieces in various shades of gray.

Please enjoy the work of these student artists on page 13.

LADY MAYHEM: AN ADVENTURE
TROY! TROY! TROY
TROY
Yeah?
DO YOU WANT TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE?!
... Uhh... sure. Where?
You know that article I wrote in the Fall 2022 issue? Lucky Coincidence On pg 9 With Dr. Graham?
who are you talking to???
Read it!! it's great!!
DO YOU WANNA GO EXPLORE THE Ravine?
Why not?
Let's go!
Yay! C'mon!
Kaia R.

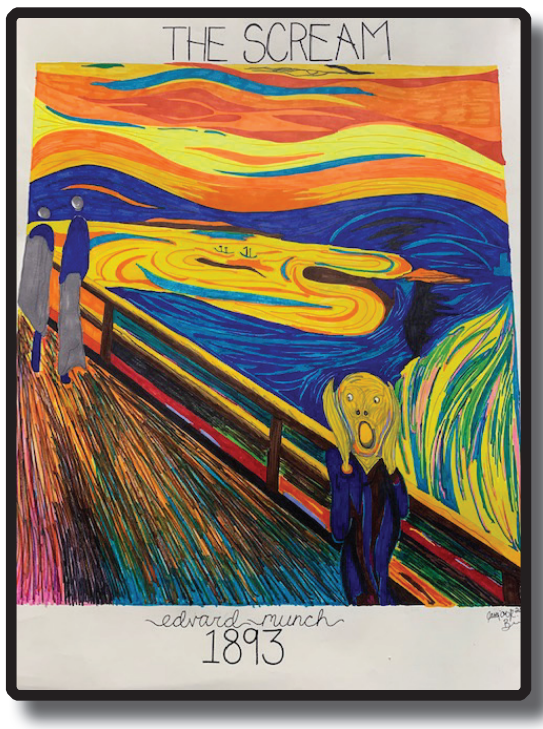
Alexis Stanich - Beginning Drawing - Graphite, after Rubens

Kaylee Mueller - Beginning Drawing - Markers, after Roy Lichtenstein

Amber Nelson - Beginning Painting - Self-portrait, after Rockwell

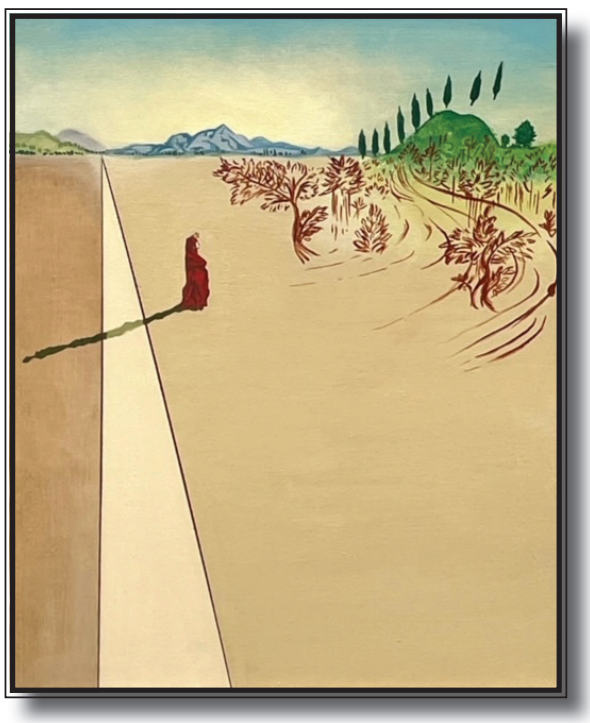
Monica Segni- Beginning Drawing- Pastel, after Margritte

Nae Bolles -Beginning Drawing -Markers, after Matisse




Jessica Brevard-Beginning Drawing - Pen, after Munch

Damien Lacap- Beginning Drawing, after Rubens



Julia Bartlemus - Beginning Painting, after Dali

Isalella Morgan - Begining Drawing - Graphite, after Jose Royo

Dustin Campisi-Beginning Drawing, Colored Pencil, after Hokusai

Hannah Clinch - Beginning Drawing - Pastels, after Govert Flink

Cass Twing - Beginning Painting - Self Portrait, after Jel Ena

# Ask Sophia

*Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. Il you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box in the FSM front lobby.*

**Q. Dear Sophia:** Why does the college hire [unpleasant] people?

**A. Dear Friend:** The college is an equal opportunity employer. Some people just rub you the wrong way. There may always be a boss, a co-worker, a clerk that is not a nice person to deal with. Suck it up. You can't control other people, only your reactions. I always strive to be my best me. Then, on the other hand, did you ever stop to think maybe you are the problem?

**Q. Dear Sophia:** Too many friends have left me for other things or people and it's just frustrating that when they do text me it's just basic small talk and then nothing again. Signed Left Behind

**A. Dear Left:** You have not been left behind or forgotten. Obviously your friends still think about you. Maybe they are at a loss for words. Try starting up a real conversation when they reach out. Suggest a get together. Keep in mind, that over time people go to new schools, get new jobs and expand their circle of friends. I hope you are doing the same.

**Q. Dear Sophia:** If you put popcorn in a bowl and add milk, is it cereal? Lots of cereals are made of corn. And they're in a soup of milk. So is popcorn and milk cereal? What about cinnamon sugar or brown sugar popcorn in a bowl of milk? Is that cereal? It's breakfasty...

**A. Dear Friend:** I say YES!!!

**Q. Dear Sophia:** What do you eat for breakfast?

**A. Dear Friend:** See above. Although I will say if you eat too slowly, it gets quite soggy.

## Say What?!

Who ordered the corn to pop?
The Kernel.

What kind of pizza toppings do corn get?
Popperoni.

Who is popcorn's favorite character? Mary Poppins.

Knock knock
Who's there?
Butter.
Butter who?
Butter save me some of that popcorn!

## A Most Unusual Paragraph

This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching.

Here's how it works: A R C T I C D R A G O N
is B S D U J D E S B H P O

One letter stands for another. In this example the letter B stands for the letter A so all the Bs stand for the letter A, Ds stand for C, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, and word length are all clues. The code letters are different for every puzzle. HINT R=P

C P K P X G U V O G P V K P M P Q Y N G F I G R C A U V J G

D G U V K P V G T G U V – D G P L C O K P H T C O M N K P

## SUDOKU

Fill the grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3 x 3 section contains all of the digits 1 through 9.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | | 6 | | | |
| 7 | 2 | | 8 | 5 | 1 | | | |
| | 9 | | 4 | | 3 | 2 | | 6 |
| 5 | | 8 | | | | | 6 | |
| | | 2 | | 3 | 4 | | 9 | |
| 4 | 7 | | | 8 | 5 | | | 2 |
| 9 | | 3 | | 6 | 8 | 4 | | |
| | | 7 | | 4 | | 9 | | 5 |
| | 5 | | | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | |

**Riddle me this**

**1. You cannot keep me until you have given me. What am I?**

**2. What is easy to get into but hard to get out of?**

**3. What begins with T ends with T and has T in it?**

**4. What is next in this sequence? JFMAMJJASON**

**5. What two words, added together, contain the most letters?**

NUMBER FUN

Find a number with its letters in alphabetical order.

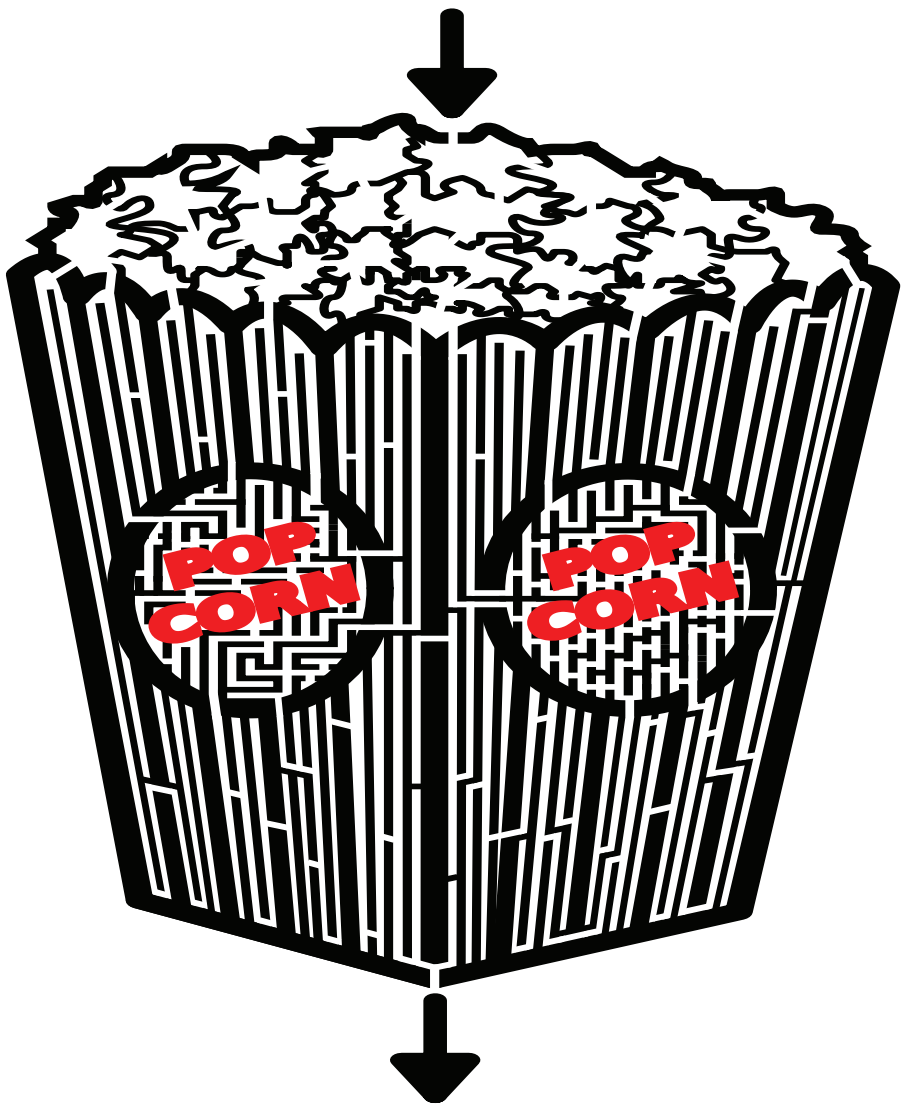
# PLEASE PASS THE POPCORN

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | R | A | P | Z | D | E | T | L | A | S | R | T | Y | C |
| E | E | T | C | I | N | N | A | M | O | N | O | U | X | O |
| G | T | H | Z | O | O | G | W | P | E | C | A | N | J | R |
| C | T | E | C | L | M | C | P | R | A | R | A | A | I | N |
| R | U | A | V | R | L | E | M | R | A | C | P | E | F | F |
| A | B | T | S | A | A | U | C | T | H | D | K | P | F | E |
| C | X | E | T | O | W | N | H | O | L | I | D | A | Y | T |
| K | I | R | V | N | T | O | C | H | E | E | S | E | U | T |
| E | E | L | O | E | R | O | R | H | U | L | N | R | H | I |
| R | R | T | R | P | L | U | F | C | K | S | T | R | Y | C |
| J | O | X | T | A | T | Z | B | F | I | L | K | U | E | M |
| A | M | Q | T | L | G | L | Z | M | E | M | X | E | L | K |
| C | S | E | L | A | E | W | H | I | T | E | Y | Z | L | K |
| K | D | I | X | J | N | O | A | I | R | P | O | P | O | L |
| Y | R | R | E | B | W | A | R | T | S | D | F | M | W | F |

Circle the words from the list below.

AIRPOP
ALMOND
BACON
BURNT
BUTTER
CRACKER JACK
CARMEL
CHEDDAR
CHEESE
CHOCOLATE
CINNAMON
CORNFETTI
DRIZZLE
GARLIC
HOLIDAY
HOT
HULL
HUSK
JALAPENO
JIFFY
KERNEL
KETTLE
MICROWAVE
NACHO
OREO
PARM
PEANUT
PECAN
RANCH
SALTED
STRAWBERRY
S'MORE
THEATER
TOFFEE
TURTLE
WHITE
YELLOW

# Movie Popcorn



**Strangers** *continued from page 1*

someone, and not one of us is more important than the other.

I've had experiences where I've been inspired by someone's act of kindness, whether it's in helping me reach an item on the top shelf of the snack aisle at Fred Meyer, or a gentleman holding a door open for me at the Post Office. In every case, I've discovered that a stranger's friendly smile goes a long way, simply making my day.

A favorite moment of mine involving the "comradeship of strangers", as I like to call it, happened at the Noisy Goose Café. My family was dining with some friends of ours and our dishes were just beginning to arrive. A hot plate of onion rings was set before me and I, to save my mom the trouble of asking for it, tossed one towards her, knowing she likes to sample everyone's food. As I did, I noticed across the aisle a few jolly-looking folks jokingly motioning for me to throw some towards them as well. They didn't expect it, but I did toss them a few - much to their amusement. Soon the entire back corner was chuckling and the spirit of connection warmed my heart!

We as humans aren't designed to live alone; God created us to desire friendship. It's inspiring to me to see strangers interacting with each other instead of living remotely, or being glued to their devices all the time, which happens far too often.

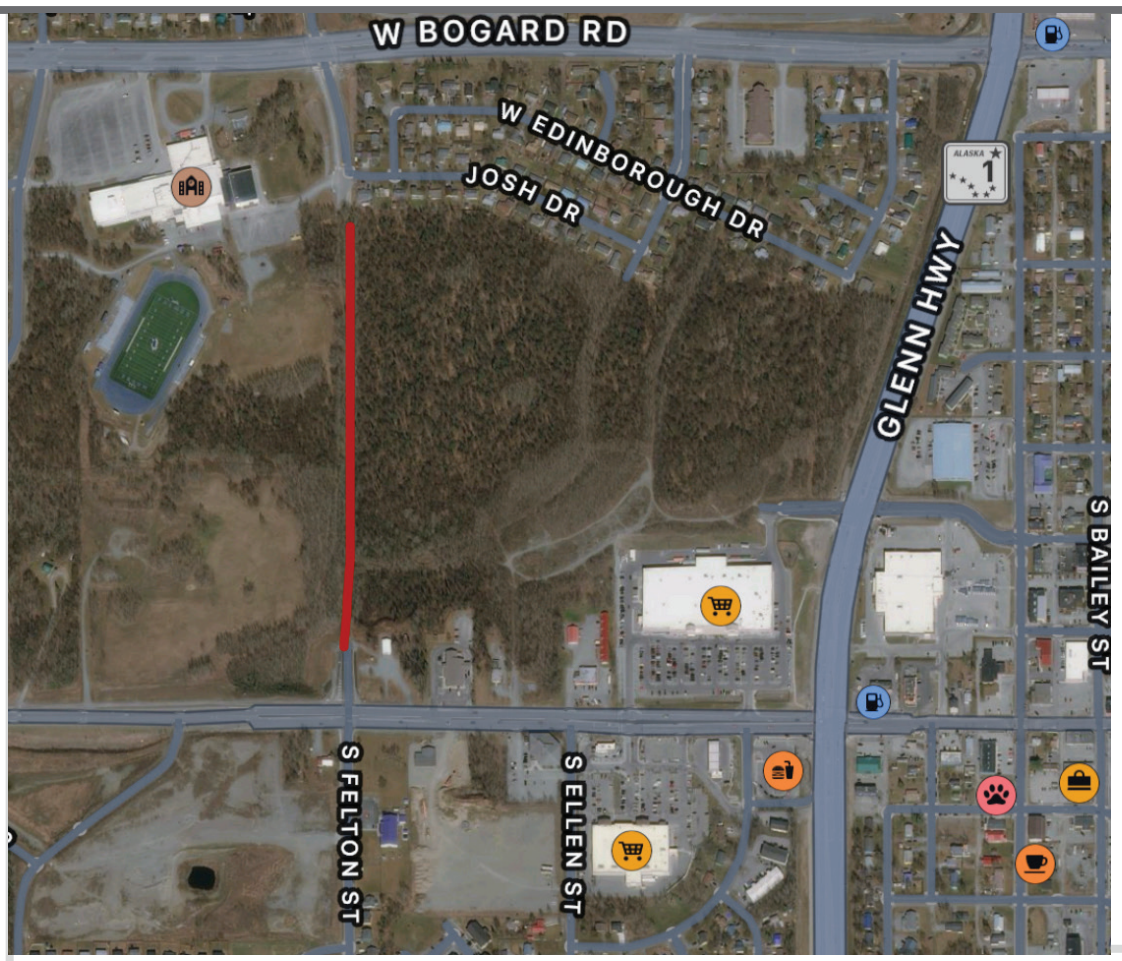
Today, make someone smile by showing you care about each "stranger" and remind them they aren't alone!

**SAVE A LIFE** *continued from page 5*

Now that I'm on the registry, months or years from now I might get a phone call telling me that somebody needs my marrow. I hope it happens, even though I hear different things on what donating marrow is like. (Technically, you donate the stem cells found in your marrow rather than the marrow itself.) The registry's promotional material makes it sound as painless as donating blood, just hours–rather than minutes–long. Other people say it hurts, sometimes a hell of a lot. Does it matter? What kind of human would avoid temporary pain at the cost of a kid's life?

I'm glad I donated, but I know I'm not the ideal donor. You might be. While any healthy person from 18-40 can register, two types of registrant make extra impact: people of color and young people. The younger the donor, the better the results for the recipient. (Those under 18 can pre-register.) People of color who register help reverse their underrepresentation on a registry that, like the rest of the health system, has historically privileged whites. (The scarcity of Alaska Natives on the registry is one reason little Tiberius has had a hard time finding a donor.)

To learn more and to get on the registry, visit https://www.bethematch.org




**Construction** *continued from page 1*

will offer convenient travel to everyone.

The project will include advantages such as a bike and pedestrian path, street lighting, and improved signals on both ends of Felton Street (adjoining the Palmer-Wasilla Hwy and Bogard Road). Additionally, the new road will cut back on traffic congestion hoping to go to the Palmer-Wasilla Hwy from Bogard Road, and vice versa. These roads currently have very limited options for connections.

In the next few months, be looking for the opening of Felton Street and use it to your advantage. It is sure to improve traffic conditions in the valley!

**Cullison** *continued from page 1*

man Ellie Cullison about her song A Change Of Wind, a piece she's performed locally after developing it alone. The song is centered around the changes in Cullison's life that occurred after her parents' divorce in 2020, displaying both the situation and how she reacted to it.

*(I'm walking into walls but they look like glass/ I can see what's coming but I can't get past/ I hear the words, but I don't understand/ I feel the feelings, but I don't react)*

"Everyone experiences this," Cullison acknowledges. "If you're trying to get somewhere, you know what's happening, you know what's in front of you, you can see it, but you just can't get there. I can see what's out there, but I can't get past this glass wall." Cullison uses a glass wall to represent the feeling of being held back from her true meaning and potential, while she can still see what's ahead. "Everyone goes through a time in their life where they know what's going on, but their feelings just don't coincide with that," she explains. "They can't get past what happened, but they know it's going to be fine. They know they're not going to die."

*(Pain is playing its game and I'm not winning/ I'm trying to look straight, but my head is spinning/ I'm drowning in invisible tears/ do they even know I'm here/ I'm trying to keep quiet inside/ do they know I'm trying to hide?)*

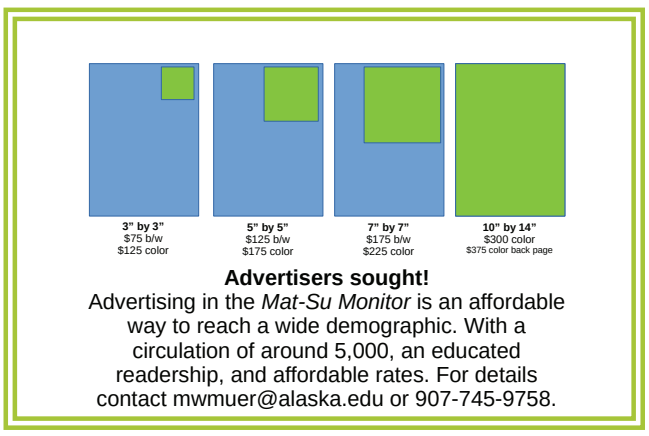
Cullison says that this verse shows how helpless she felt in this time; all of the thoughts, ideas, and hurt swirling around in her head kept her from concentrating on anything else, while she attempted to keep quiet about it all, both in her head and out loud. "It's just emotion," she adds, "and that's all poetry has to be. It can be more; it can be informative, if you want it to be, but it's just emotion."

*((chorus) maybe I don't really know me at all/ and I guess I'm kind of afraid of the fall/ because I just started to soar up high/ and a change of wind is kind of hard when you're learning to fly.)*

"It's questioning," Cullison explains. "Questioning who you are, questioning what you believe. And here, it's like you finally started to learn how to fly, you're soaring through the sky, everything is great, and then a change of wind goes woosh! and throws you off course." While Cullison's change of wind was her parents' divorce, she acknowledges that everyone's is a little different. "And of course you're going to be afraid of the fall, afraid of getting knocked down and failing and failing classes and failing life and disappointing your parents. It's different for everyone; the fall is different for everyone, whether it's being bad at school or a job and whatnot."

*(And I don't know where this is going to go, I guess I'm just trying to hold onto what I knew before/ the floor fell from under my feet, when I didn't open new doors with uncertainty/ and now things are different, I'm trying to fix this, I'm trying to determine)*

"When you're opening a new door with uncertainty, you're not walking into life confidently, you're not trying new things optimistically," Cullison explains. "The beautiful thing about poetry is this: I could read these lines, and without the context of knowing it was about a divorce, it could mean something totally different. Someone could relate it to their life, and it could be about having to scrub floors in a bathroom at their job. It could be about anything, and that's the beauty of it. It's open for interpretation, and it could be a resource for anyone in their life, in their situation, in their hardships." Cullison emphasizes one point about music, both her own and that of other artists: it's interpretive. When an artist writes a song describing the comfort of falling in love with a girl quickly and imagining the possibilities of being with her, a listener could interpret it as a simple summer pop song. Sound familiar? That's *Cruise* by Florida Georgia Line. Even the ever-popular *22* by Taylor Swift is a song with a degree of relatability: what sounds like a hit party song is Taylor's description of what it felt like to turn 22, but feeling "happy, free, confused, and lonely at the same time" is a feeling many of us can understand. "Even just these words," Cullison notes about A Change Of Wind. "If you were just to look at these lines, and think to yourself, "I can identify with this," if you really understood it and were able to comprehend it, maybe it'd be easier to realize that maybe poetry does mean something. Because it does." The relatability of popular music and songs like Cullison's doesn't just show how similar many peoples' music tastes are, but also how similar our experiences are and that no matter what we go through, we definitely aren't alone. I think that's beautiful.



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PUZZLE ANSWERS

RIDDLES

1. Your word
2. Trouble
3. Teapot
4. The letter D. The sequence contains the first letter of each month.
5. post office

NUMBER FUN

Forty

PARAGRAPH

There is no letter 'e'

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